

News

United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

Dallas/Kansas City Regional Office
Jerome Watters
Regional Economist
(214) 767-6970
<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm>

For Release:
August 21, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS OF OKLAHOMA CITY, OK NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY FEBRUARY 2003

Workers in the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, metropolitan area averaged \$15.44 per hour during February 2003, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.30 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.96 per hour and represented 25 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.61 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal government. This NCS covered 211 firms representing 193,900 workers in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, which is comprised of Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie Counties in Oklahoma. Seventy-five percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 31 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$20.19 per hour; secretaries, \$13.18; and cashiers, \$7.35. Blue-collar occupations included bus drivers at \$11.98 per hour. In the service occupations, firefighters averaged \$17.58 per hour and cooks, \$7.84.

Individual earnings within a broad occupational category may differ depending on the industry sector in which one works. For example, blue-collar workers in private industry at \$16.13 per hour earned more than their counterparts in State and local government (\$14.16). In contrast, State and local government white-collar workers (\$21.25) earned more than private industry white-collar workers (\$15.79). However, for some occupations, industry had little or no impact; hourly earnings for workers in administrative support, including clerical jobs were essentially the same in both State and local government and private industry.

National Compensation Survey, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2003 (continued)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Oklahoma City area averaged \$16.07 per hour, earning more than part-timers at \$7.87. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$22.09 per hour, considerably more than their nonunion counterparts at \$13.78. Private industry workers at establishments with 500 or more employees averaged \$19.64 per hour, eclipsing the \$11.91 average hourly wage of those in establishments employing 50-99 workers.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Oklahoma City, OK National Compensation Survey February 2003 (Bulletin 3115-66). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9536.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Technical Note

Because the NCS is a sample survey, it is subject to sampling errors. Sampling errors occur because observations come only from a sample and not from an entire population. The sample used for this survey is one of a number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the sample design. Estimates derived from the different samples would differ from each other. A measure of the variation among these differing estimates is the standard error. It can be used to measure the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the expected result of all possible samples. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the survey differs from a complete population figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error. The statements of comparisons appearing in this publication are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. This means that for differences cited, the estimated difference is greater than 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers(2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2003

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$15.44	3.5	\$14.37	4.7	\$19.11	2.7
All excluding sales	15.93	3.0	14.85	4.1	19.16	2.7
White collar	17.30	5.0	15.79	6.6	21.25	2.7
White collar excluding sales	18.71	3.5	17.37	5.1	21.36	2.8
Professional specialty and technical	21.90	4.6	19.32	6.7	24.85	1.7
Professional specialty	23.00	4.9	20.50	10.0	24.83	1.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	18.59	8.1	18.84	10.7	17.74	4.5
Registered nurses	20.19	3.2	20.11	3.9	—	—
Teachers, college and university	34.21	6.7	22.30	6.4	—	—
Other post-secondary teachers	35.12	11.9	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	23.46	1.8	—	—	23.43	1.8
Elementary school teachers	24.14	1.2	—	—	24.14	1.2
Secondary school teachers	23.85	1.5	—	—	23.85	1.5
Teachers, n.e.c.	21.94	1.8	—	—	—	—
Substitute teachers	9.67	12.0	—	—	9.67	12.0
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	21.88	14.1	—	—	—	—
Psychologists	19.65	11.6	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	18.34	5.7	17.47	4.9	—	—
Radiological technicians	23.77	10.4	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	14.14	1.7	14.16	1.7	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.84	9.2	31.84	7.6	20.70	9.2
Executives, administrators, and managers	27.66	12.1	34.01	8.5	20.56	11.5
Administrators, education and related fields	24.54	16.7	—	—	28.40	11.5
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	35.29	13.3	36.32	15.1	—	—
Management related	24.16	8.5	25.89	10.4	21.28	12.7
Accountants and auditors	26.39	15.0	—	—	—	—
Sales	11.18	17.1	11.14	17.5	—	—
Cashiers	7.35	6.6	7.26	6.6	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.86	3.9	11.98	4.6	11.19	2.5
Supervisors, general office	22.85	18.1	—	—	—	—
Secretaries	13.18	7.4	14.45	10.2	12.04	7.0
Receptionists	8.95	5.4	8.95	5.4	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	10.78	12.1	10.79	14.4	—	—
General office clerks	10.68	6.0	10.43	5.9	—	—
Data entry keyers	9.79	13.0	9.79	13.0	—	—
Teachers' aides	8.27	6.0	—	—	8.27	6.0
Administrative support, n.e.c.	11.13	5.1	11.23	5.4	—	—
Blue collar	15.96	4.4	16.13	4.7	14.16	4.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.35	5.9	17.46	6.4	16.13	4.3
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.09	7.3	16.24	7.3	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	10.83	3.2	10.99	4.0	—	—
Transportation and material moving	16.62	12.0	17.41	13.1	13.56	2.8
Truck drivers	18.66	17.0	19.10	17.2	—	—
Bus drivers	11.98	8.8	—	—	11.98	8.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.15	4.3	8.87	4.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	7.59	4.4	7.40	3.6	—	—
Service	8.61	4.4	6.28	6.5	14.66	2.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers(2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2003 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Protective service	\$18.58	0.9	—	—	\$18.90	0.8
Firefighting	17.58	.6	—	—	17.58	.6
Police and detectives, public service	19.37	5.7	—	—	19.37	5.7
Food service	5.30	5.6	\$5.15	5.9	8.32	2.9
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.29	2.4	3.29	2.4	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.57	4.0	2.57	4.0	—	—
Other food service	7.14	3.3	7.01	3.5	8.32	2.9
Cooks	7.84	1.8	7.81	1.9	8.06	.2
Health service	8.45	3.2	8.24	2.6	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	8.41	3.5	8.24	2.7	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.46	8.7	7.66	10.4	9.98	8.6
Janitors and cleaners	8.39	8.0	7.88	13.4	9.11	4.0
Personal service	7.44	7.1	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group(2), National Compensation Survey, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2003

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$16.07	\$7.87	\$21.37	\$14.41	\$15.35	\$17.36
All excluding sales	16.54	8.10	21.37	14.86	15.89	18.21
White collar	17.70	10.75	21.37	16.89	17.20	18.97
White-collar excluding sales	18.95	13.33	21.37	18.37	18.57	—
Professional specialty and technical	22.06	18.71	24.07	21.40	21.90	—
Professional specialty	23.18	19.43	24.07	22.65	23.00	—
Technical	18.44	—	—	18.34	18.34	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.88	—	—	26.84	26.51	—
Sales	11.78	—	—	11.18	9.01	16.89
Administrative support, including clerical	12.06	8.57	15.36	11.53	11.86	—
Blue collar	16.12	9.33	22.09	13.78	16.10	12.72
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.35	—	21.17	16.83	17.38	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.09	—	—	10.85	16.64	—
Transportation and material moving	16.86	—	20.70	12.80	16.65	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.12	9.34	—	9.06	9.15	—
Service	9.57	5.28	19.32	6.81	8.61	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.3	14.7	2.2	4.0	3.3	10.3
All excluding sales	2.9	16.3	2.2	3.4	2.7	27.4
White collar	5.2	13.9	1.3	5.4	5.1	17.8
White-collar excluding sales	3.9	10.5	1.3	4.0	3.3	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.8	4.9	2.4	5.4	4.6	—
Professional specialty	5.1	6.1	2.4	6.3	4.9	—
Technical	6.1	—	—	5.7	5.7	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9.3	—	—	9.2	9.3	—
Sales	16.0	—	—	17.1	7.5	5.8
Administrative support, including clerical	4.3	7.4	14.7	3.1	3.9	—
Blue collar	4.5	9.5	4.3	5.6	4.2	27.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.9	—	8.4	5.4	6.1	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.3	—	—	5.9	6.1	—
Transportation and material moving	11.9	—	9.2	11.0	12.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.7	12.8	—	4.5	4.3	—
Service	6.3	28.1	3.0	4.7	4.4	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group(2), private industry, National Compensation Survey, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2003

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$14.37	\$11.91	\$15.62	\$13.48	\$19.64
All excluding sales	14.85	11.60	16.46	14.38	19.64
White collar	15.79	13.23	16.74	15.83	18.30
White-collar excluding sales	17.37	12.97	18.67	18.99	18.30
Professional specialty and technical	19.32	16.42	20.28	17.82	22.12
Professional specialty	20.50	—	22.22	19.38	23.40
Technical	17.47	—	17.37	16.75	18.45
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.84	—	32.72	30.99	36.78
Sales	11.14	13.67	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.98	9.92	12.69	14.16	10.95
Blue collar	16.13	14.48	17.11	12.84	23.89
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.46	16.25	19.05	15.65	28.82
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.24	11.54	16.80	11.15	—
Transportation and material moving	17.41	13.18	20.31	17.46	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	8.87	8.56	9.03	8.80	—
Service	6.28	5.75	6.79	6.39	8.85
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	4.7	12.3	5.4	8.0	5.9
All excluding sales	4.1	10.9	3.8	6.9	5.9
White collar	6.6	10.8	8.9	13.7	9.1
White-collar excluding sales	5.1	11.6	5.5	8.3	9.1
Professional specialty and technical	6.7	14.3	4.3	5.7	4.4
Professional specialty	10.0	—	4.4	10.5	4.0
Technical	4.9	—	7.0	7.9	11.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.6	—	7.9	6.7	20.3
Sales	17.5	19.9	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	4.6	7.3	5.6	8.4	7.0
Blue collar	4.7	8.3	5.6	7.1	5.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.4	6.5	13.1	7.7	3.7
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.3	4.7	7.9	7.6	—
Transportation and material moving	13.1	19.5	14.3	12.8	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.2	9.9	5.0	2.6	—
Service	6.5	10.4	6.3	8.1	4.7

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.